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Eva Vukašinović met with presidents of five National Minority Councils.



Croatia: Minority Dissatisfied

National minorities in Croatia on 31. May chose their members for national councils. Only few days before that event, representatives of eight national minorities in Council signed Declaration on unbearableness and ethnocentrism in Croatia.



On European path

Scientific, literary and informative editions of Bunjevci institutions and associations, art works in straw technique, costume, national dances and beauties of Bunjevac language – all this was presented at the fair of minority languages and cultures.



National Councils on working councils in Kovačica

In Kovačica, on 9th i 10th May was given big working meeting of Coordination of National Councils in expanded form. Host of the meeting was Slovak National council, president of which is also president of Coordination of National Councils.

EDITORIAL

Serbia is still (not) silent in minority languages

After much discussion, public debates, professional and unprofessional meetings about consequences of Law on Privatization for media, on languages of national minorities, solution is found, though temporary and expected, but yet the one that we cannot say that Serbia stays without media in minority languages, on 1st July. It would destroy summer holidays to many, or disturb other plans for the hottest season, so that everyone was happy, in the first place state officers and officials, when decision was postponed until 1st November.

Prudence of decision postponement is not just the thing that we can all carelessly enjoy our summer holiday, but also because in those holiday months we get additional time to find interested investors in media in minority languages, whom, until 31st of October we will convince that buying media in minority language in Serbia, during summer, became a real hit and great investment for future. Of course, if they do not expect back their invested capital, and it is well known that investors, just of you explain the things properly, are willing to take care also about public interest instead of state.

Who said that informing in languages of national minorities is public interest? Did anyone even think that maybe until the end of October no interested investor in national minorities' language media will appear?

I think it is not fair to set difficult questions before holidays, and that we should try harder to choose an appropriate destination (in Serbia, of course) for holiday, and to try on that very destination, during excursion, at the beach, or after lunch, to find an investor in radio station in Albanian language or in television in Slovak, or maybe in daily newspaper in Bulgarian language. I wish pleasant and careless summer to all members of national minorities, and especially to those employed with minority languages media.

Members of 30 different communities live in Serbia.



Deputy Ombudsman for National Minority Rights Protection met with representatives of five National Minority Councils

Deputy Ombudsman for National Minority Rights Protection, Eva Vukašinović, met with presidents of five National Minority Councils.

They discussed current issues relevant to each minority community specifically, as well as the ways its members hold that the Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman could contribute to the advancement of their personal and collective human rights exercise and protection.

The fact that National Minority Councils are not recognized in other laws that concern minority rights exercise directly or indirectly is a key problem faced by the National Minority Councils in their everyday work. Other issues discussed on these occasions were the experience concerning the last elections for new National Minority Councils, along with the representation of women in them. Based on its mandate, Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman has established cooperation with all National Minority Councils members of which live in the AP Vojvodina and monitored their work based on the provisions of the National Minority Councils Law. Detailed data on the exercise of the National Minority Councils mandate during their first term have been published in Provincial Protector of Citizens - Ombudsman research study report "Four Years of the National Minority Councils".



Croatia: Minorities dissatisfied

Source: RTV

National minorities in Croatia, on 31st of May chose their members for national councils. Only few days before that event, representatives of eight national minorities in Council signed Declaration on unbearable and ethnocentrism in Croatia.

Unsatisfactory status, of Serbian national minority first of all, was pointed out also by Serbian national council. Situation is especially worsen after entering European Union.

Until recently, the attacks on Serbs in Croatia were worst in return places. Now they are extended to whole country – it is the last report of Serbian national council, where all incidents are numbered, especially during last year. President of Serbian national council, Milorad Pupovac, says that Croatia is standing in front of serious challenge to recover nationalism and nationalistic exclusiveness, and evidence of that is declaration signed by eight representatives of national councils in Croatian council, as well as the president of council. National minorities in Croatia are faced with escalation of intolerance and ethnocentrism – says Declaration. State-

ment of a Croatian woman representative in European parliament, who calls for cancellation of minority status and ethnic cleansing is criticised. In Office for human rights and rights of national minorities of Croatian Government is con-

According to the most recent census more than 90 per cent of citizens declare as Croatian. It means that all minorities altogether make less than 10 per cent.

firmed that attacks on minorities are bigger and bigger, but it is solved with Statute. Institution in charge of solving status

questions is Ministry of Interior (MUP), which solves those questions for minorities and most part of population. Some other questions are in charge of Ministry for culture and some in charge of Ministry for sport, and so on... But it should be said that there is great political will for realisation of minority rights generally, said director's Assistant in Office for human rights and rights of national minorities in Government of the Republic of Croatia, Bahrija Sejfić. Though it has 50 different nations, Croatia is one of the most nationally homogenous countries in the world. According to last registration more than 90 per cent of citizens declare as Croatian. It means that all minorities altogether make less than 10 per cent. In accordance with these numbers, it is not a surprising fact that elections for councils of national minorities in Croatia are on margins of interest of their political public and media – all those who received reports about bad status of minorities and who still did not answer them.



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More women in national councils

Participation of women in national councils is slightly increased and now there are 106 of them, eight more than in former period – these are results of newest research about status of women in national councils of the national minorities done by Provincial Protector of Citizens.

The aim of research was to see in what measure during elections for national councils of national minorities, in October 2014 is respected legal obligation about candidacy of 30 per cent of women on lists and how many of them there are today in membership of national councils.

Results of research show that women, at an average, make a little more than one third of membership in national councils. Of 14 national councils of national minorities who submitted data, in two national councils there are less than 30 per cent of women, two of them have more than 40 per cent, and three of them a little less than 40 per cent of women. In former meeting of national councils there were almost three times more of men – 93 of them, against 39 women.

Two national councils have women presidents, nine of them have women who

are vice presidents, and almost two times more of men- 15 of them are presidents.

It is obvious that difference in number of women against men is decreased as the function in internal hierarchy of national council is of lower significance. There are, for instance, more number of women on the position of secretary of national council (seven women against two men), while more women there are only in professional services of national councils (36 women against 14 men). On the position of president of board there are two times more of men than women (27 men against 14 women), and only at the front of board for education there are more women (six of them against four men).

Only three national councils (Croatian, Macedonian and Slovak minorities) have working body dealing with the status of women and protection of their rights.



Nine national councils worked on the increase of women on the positions for decision making in national council, and generally in politics before elections for national councils, and campaigns for candidacy of women on elections for national councils was led by eight national councils.

Provincial ombudsman, just as after previous two researches about position of women in national councils, points out the need for promotion of women on the positions of decision making. National councils should continue...

NEWS

National Councils on working councils in Kovačica

J. Bodnar

In Kovačica, on 9th i 10th May was given big working meeting of Coordination of National Councils in expanded form. Host of the meeting was Slovak National council, president of which is also president of Coordination of National Councils.

Participation in the process of harmonizing normative acts for European integral procedure took majority of National councils, and work was done in separate groups which worked on fields of education, culture, informing and official use of language and letter. Special task had working group which considered Scheme of Action plan for chapter 23, with which begin negotiations about entering EU. In accordance with the significance of participation in this process, National council of Czech national mi-

nority had representatives in all fields: - Prof. Jože Sivaček "Action plan – chapter 23"; - Master manager Jaroslav Hoc, "Culture"; - media manager Jaroslav Bodnar, "Informing"; - Prof. Valentina Hoc, educational inspector, "Education"; - licentiate engineer Milan Fürst, "Language and letter". After working in groups and harmonizing mutual interests of all National councils, theses are established which could be implemented into Action plan. They are presented and explained by all working

groups, on collective meeting of all participants the following day. After discussion of all fields, presented attitudes are accepted with acclamation. National councils have remaining few days to harmonize and form the document which will directly reflect attitudes of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, about elements which should be part of Action plan, in order to save and improve the achieved rights of national minorities. Once when it is accepted, and the process of its realisation begins, hard work on its improvement, which was the aim of this meeting, will be justified and the results will be far-reaching.

The Bosniaks celebrate Flag Day

Source: Bošnjacko nacionalno vijeće

Bosniak national council, in honour of celebration of May 11th – Day of Bosniak national flag, in all Sandžak towns organizes occasional celebrations and cultural manifestations.

Program of celebrating the Flag Day Dana began on 9 May 2015. with the promotion of Dictionary of Bosnian language, by author Prof. Dževad Jahić, in Head office of the Council in Novi Pazar, and in the same day, in Tutin and Sjenica are kept semi-final evenings of Parade of Bosniak folk dances – SBONI 2015. Central ceremony of this year celebration of the Day of Bosniak national flag is kept in Novi Pazar on 10 May 2015. In Head office of the Council, for high officials from all towns of Sandžak and guests from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, president of the Council, Dr Sulejman Ugljanin, together with vice-president of Bosniak council in Montenegro, Munib Ličina, and president of Executive board of Bosniak council in Montenegro, Mirsad Džudžević, organized ceremonial reception, after which followed traditional flag lifting of Bosniak in front of the seat of Head office of the Council. Along with tuning the hymn of Bosniak “I am your son”, flag was lifted on pole by eminent Sandžak sportswoman, representative of Serbia



in athletics, European champion in cross race and multiple winner of many athletic competitions around the world, Amela Terzić. Congratulating to all Bosniaks their biggest national holiday – Day of Bosniak national flag, president of Bosniak national council, Dr. Sulejman Ugljanin, in his ceremonial addressing emphasized necessity of preserving the

national identity, emphasizing on this occasion importance of flag as national symbol of all nations. Final Parade of Bosniak folk dances - SBONI 2015. Began with defile of participants of the Dances form building of the Head office of the Council, to the Music Hall of Novi Pazar, where public was met with fantastic presentation of cultural artistic societies from Brčko, Goražde, Rožaje, Petnica, Tutin, Sjenica and Novi Pazar. Program of celebrating the Flag Day will be continued on 11 May 2015 in Sjenica, with ceremonial flag lifting in front of the building of municipality of Sjenica, and in Novi Pazar with opening the exhibition of art works and assigning of prizes to winners of competitions and to the best placed students on republic competition from Bosnian language. In the same day, beginning at 8.00 pm, in Dom Revolucije in Prijepolje, will be organized celebration of the Day of Bosniak national flag, and in rich cultural and entertaining program will participate folk ensemble of Multimedia Center from Tutin and group “Derman” from Novi Pazar. Day of Bosniak national flag, with occasional programs, will be celebrated in the following days also in Nova Varoš and Priboj.



Achieved big progress in protection of minority languages in Serbia



Office for human and minority rights of the Government of the Republic of Serbia organized in the Palace Serbia meeting of representatives of Committees of experts of European charter about regional or minority languages of the Council of Europe and state bodies

On meeting, beside representatives of the Office, participated also representatives of Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Culture and Information and Government of Serbia Coordination Body for municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medveđa. Member of the Committee of experts, Diter Halvaks, emphasized that Serbia achieved big progress in protection of minority languages, but that still there are certain problems in fields of education, use of minority languages in jurisdiction, as well as on all levels of administrative authority.

Halvaks also expressed worry that approaching process of privatisation of media will question previous level of informing in minority languages in electronic media. Second vice-president of the Committee of experts and reporter, Stefan Oeter, emphasized that within education in minority languages a significant step forward is evidenced, especially with Bunjevac and Vlach languages, and he mentioned that parents and children should be additionally motivated to educate children in their native language. Representatives of Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development emphasized that a special action plan for education of national minorities is made, which will be

presented during Jun to the national councils. Visit of the Committee of experts to the Republic of Serbia from 3-5 Jun is organized with the aim of perception of fulfilling obligations that Republic of Serbia took with entering this international agreement. During visit, members of the Committee of experts of the Council of Europe talked to the representatives of the republic, provincial and town authorities, and to the representatives of national councils of national minorities. In organisation of the Office for human and minority rights, Committee of experts had meetings in Novi Sad with representatives of Secretariat for Education, Regulations, Administration and National Minorities – National Communities, Secretariat for Culture and Public Information, Secretariat for Inter-regional Cooperation and Local Management, Novi Sad, it is said in report of the Office.



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Memorial to the policemen-victims in Kumanovo



Eight policemen died, and 37 were injured during conflicts with terrorists in Kumanovo, on 9 and 10 May 2015, in Macedonia. Republic of Macedonia on this occasion announced two grieving days, and members of Macedonian national community in the Republic of Serbia, with flowers and burning candles paid respect to policemen-victims in Kumanovo, in front of the Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Belgrade.

President of Macedonian national council, Borče Veličkovski, expressed deep worry and emphasized that Macedonian national community in Serbia in disbelief follows on-goings in the Republic of Macedonia.

- We disapprove any act of terrorism and breaking of law, and we refer message to our Headquarters that we expect making effort for solving current state, as it suits to a contemporary and sovereign European

country. We ask for humility and patience, tolerance and mutual respect. We appeal to all political factors in the Republic of Macedonia to find strength, and to find solution via dialogue and mutual respect, in order to overcome the existing problems. We believe that there is possibility, wish and political will for that, for the sake of public welfare of Macedonian people and all citizens of Macedonia - emphasized Veličkovski.



Training of members of national councils within project “Let equality become reality”



In Sombor, on Tuesday 26 of May, is given seminar–workshop on topic “Role of national councils of national minorities in fight against discrimination”.

Representatives of national councils of Bunjevci, Hungarian, German and Ruthenian national minorities participated in training about discrimination and mechanisms of protection from discrimination, intended for members of national councils of national minorities. Training is organized in National Theatre, within project “Let equality become reality”, led by Commissioner for Protection of Equality and Union of the Associations “Human Rights House”. Bunjevci national community on this seminar was represented by woman president of BNC, Mr. Suzana Kujundžić Ostojić, and members of BNC – Mirko Bajić, Stanislava Lutkić and Dejan Parčetić.

– This is the third of five planned seminars on Serbian territory, held with the aim of introducing representatives of national councils with instruments in fight against discrimination, introduction to the institution of Commissioner for Protection of Equality.

Seminar also includes training within filling in accusation and introduction to the

procedure which comes after that – emphasized one of the lecturers, Slobodan Milivojević, counsellor in professional

As for discrimination, Commissioner for Protection of Equality should be referred, considering that he is the one who can enter into private relations between private persons, unlike the protector of citizens who can react only if offence is made by the authority body

service for protection of equality. Woman lawyer, from the Committee of lawyers for human rights, Kristina Todorović, emphasized that Committee is dealing with prohibition of discrimination and training of citizens, with accent on minority groups about what discrimination is and what are the ways in which persons, who thinks themselves being in danger, can be protected through competent institutions.

– As for discrimination, Commissioner for Protection of Equality should be referred, considering that he is the one who can enter into private relations between private persons, unlike the protector of citizens who can react only if offence is made by the authority body. And that is essential difference between these two independent bodies, that we try to make clear to the seminar participants – emphasized lawyer Todorović and expressed expectations after seminar.

– We expect increase of information, i.e. knowledge about topic of discrimination among representatives of national councils of national minorities, and we will measure it, among the rest, with increased number of charges with Commissioner for Protection of Equality. Certainly, we expect from representatives of national councils to deliver this information to more people, i.e. to their national community. Bunjevci national council sends message that for every case of discrimination members of Bunjevci national minority can refer first to the Bunjevci national council, after which actions will be taken according to the law.

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Strategy for improvement of the state of Roma people until the end of September

New Strategy for improvement of the state of Roma people, which will follow politics of Government in the process of joining EU, will be adopted until the end of September, announced state secretary in Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs, Nenad Ivanišević.

Before Council Meeting for improvement of the state of Roma people and conduction of Decade of including Roma people, he said to journalists that Strategy will be on public hearing until the end of July, and expects it to be adopted on 15 September or at latest until the end of September. Ivanišević said that members of Roma national minority will contribute a lot to the making of Strategy, because, as he said, they can define their needs in the best way. He said that he is satisfied with the results of Decade of Roma 2005-2015, and emphasized that state will ask for more active participation of members of Roma national community and NGOs in the following period. Head of the negotiating team for entering of Serbia into EU, Tanja



“Question of inclusion of Roma people exists in few chapters in negotiations with EU – from basic rights, through education and social welfare, employment, and to the improvement of enterprise.”

Tanja Mišćević

Mišćevih, who was present at the meeting, said to the journalists that the work of council is significant, not only for the procedure of European integrations, but also for the protection of human rights and improvement of economic position of Serbia.

She said that the question of inclusion of Roma people exists in few chapters in negotiations with EU – from basic rights, through education and social welfare, employment, and to the improvement of enterprise.

"This is mutual work, and it is not connected only with the process of negotiations, for question of social inclusion of Roma people overcomes process of European integrations", said Mišćević. President of National council of Roma people, Vitomir Mihajlović, said that Government, in the process of negotiation with EU subscribed to make new strategy and action plans. Speaking about realisation of Decade of Roma people from 2005 to 2015, Mihajlović said that he cannot be fully satisfied with all results. According to his words, expectations are fulfilled within area of education and health state of Roma people, but within area of housing and employment there are no results." In future period we will insist on employment of members of Roma national community, which is the biggest barrier in realisation of all other rights. "We have members of Roma national community who wait for years at the Employment Bureau", said Mihajlović. He reminded that affirmative measures are applied for entry of Roma people to the Faculties, but that the problem now is that those who have Faculty diploma are at the Employment Bureau for few years and cannot find job. "If you apply affirmative measure for entry on studies, and you cannot find a job, then we do not have effect of affirmative measures that we apply", said Mihajlović. Topic of



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Vitomir Mihajlović

the meeting was Strategy for improvement of the state of Roma people and expert board that will work on action plans for new strategy from 2015 - 2020.



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XV international scientific meeting "Minority languages in education and teaching: challenges and new guides"



ON EUROPEAN PATH

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cientific, literary and informative editions of Bunjevci institutions and associations, art works in straw technique, costume, national dances and beauties of Bunjevački language – all this was presented at the fair of minority languages and cultures.

Faculty of Philology of the University of Belgrade from 28 to 30 of May was host of XV international scientific meeting under the title "Minority languages in education and teaching: challenges and new guides". It is about meeting which is kept for thirty years in different University centres in the world, and which deals with the questions of minority languages, and it gathers numerous experts from this scientific field from country

and the world.

Ratification of language – stability of community

Conference inauguration was kept on Thursday 28 of May, within building of the Head office of the University in Belgrade, and at the ceremony, in front of National council of Bunjevci national minority, was present president of the

Council, Mr. Suzana Kujundžić Ostojić.

Primary aim of the conference is presenting of achievements and good practice from area of teaching of minority and regional languages, as well as exchange of experience and making guides for further studies, and also development of formal and informal education in minority languages. According to Prof. Julijana Vučo, professor at the Faculty of Philology and president of organizing committee, conference is significantly relevant for deepening and strengthening already existing successful connec-

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tions with Universities from the region, Europe and the world, as well as for making new possibilities of scientific and University cooperation.

—We live in a moment when plurilingualism in Europe is extremely respected, respect of any language separately and all languages together, that are cultivated and used in Europe, represent task for all those employed with culture and education, and especially for Faculty of Philology and Ministry of Education, as well as similar institutions in our country —said Vučo, end expressed her belief that future of minority languages is not endangered, but that it is, as she said, extremely positive.

— Language vanishing depends first of all on its speaker, on his wish and strength to confront everything that can be reason for vanishing of language, and it is economic, political and other reasons. I

believe that in Serbia today there should not exist danger of vanishing of any minority language, if we happen to be in the situation to make conditions for education in those languages, and it is also important for members of minorities to be included into the context of Serbian social community, through knowledge of the language of majority, Serbian language — concluded our interlocutor.

Conference was officially opened by Prof. Ranko Bugarski, who spoke about European charter on regional and minority languages after two decades. Considering that Prof. Bugarski is expert of the Council of Europe for regional and minority languages, he is greatly familiar with work of Bunjevci national council, with difficulties that it faces related to the standardization of language, as well as with specific characteristics of Bunjevci national minority.

- As for the status of Bunjevac speech, i.e. language, it is practically about terminology difference which is more dictated by outside conditions, mostly of political nature, because difference between speech and language is actually not linguistic. When there comes the advancement of procedure of standardization of Bunjevac speech, which is in progress, then it will be easier to pass over that barrier, and then Bunjevci can officially be named as language — said Prof. Bugarski, and commented polemics that happened recently, about publishing of Bunjevci reading book and grammar “Klupče” in Cyrillic alphabet. Namely, he thinks that the polemics was useless, because situation is such that children, even minority groups, in schools first study Cyrillic, and just after that Latin alphabet.

New apartments for 12 Roma families



On Wednesday, 26 May 2015, 12 apartments are given to the most endangered Roma families in Belgrade. Families got apartments in Orlovsko settlement – municipality Zvezdara.

Housing is one of the biggest problems not only for Roma people in Belgrade, but for Roma in whole Serbia, and this project “Let us build a home together” aims to improve life conditions for the most endangered Roma families in Belgrade. It should serve as an example and

base to all local autonomies and municipalities in the Republic of Serbia how to deal with this problem and how to solve one of the biggest problems for Roma people. Thanks to the European Union, Office of United Nations for project activities and to the city of Belgrade, today

12 Roma families got roofs over their heads.

Mayor of Belgrade, Siniša Mali, Majkl Devenport, head of European delegation in Serbia, Nataša Stanisavljević, secretary of Secretariat for social welfare, Dragana Milošević manager of UNOPS, Vitomir Mihajlović, president of National council of Roma people and the rest were present at the delivery of keys and moving of Roma families into new apartments.



Meeting of expert mission (TeleX)

Source: Nacionalni savet češke nacionalne manjine

In period from 27 to 29 May 2015, in rooms of Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbian Government in Belgrade, are kept more meetings of expert mission (TeleX), organized by European Committee – Directorate for Legal Service and Enlargement.



Expert mission from Brussels was headed by Prof. Hofman Rajner. National council of Czech national minority was represented by president of the Council Prof. Jože Sivaček.

During three-days work within Expert mission questions and problems from many fields of functioning of national councils of national minorities are considered. Especially is analysed application of Law on national councils of national minorities within areas of education, culture, informing in the languages of national minorities, as well as official use of language and letter. In his presentation Prof. Sivaček pointed out many failures of the existing Law on national councils of national minorities. He especially emphasized its normative-legal inconsistency, which resulted in that national councils, from subjects of

regulation, in law became objects. He illustrated this with the fact that of total number of Articles of the Law, 141 of them, only 38 consider problems of work of national councils, and the rest of 103 Articles describe elections for national council and work of state administration bodies. As a figurative example, Prof. Sivaček stated that 11 Articles of the Law define bulletin and way of voting (size and colour of bulletin, way of putting it into voting-box...) and only 1 Article (Art. 22 of the Law) defines whole area of official use of language and letter. Suggestion of Prof. Sivaček is that new law about national councils of na-

tional minorities must be made, which will respect real minority needs in the Republic of Serbia. Separate segment of expert analysis was question of financing national councils of national minorities. Attention is paid also to the functioning of bodies of national councils and determining of working status of those employed in national councils. Professor Hofman was also interested in question of election for members of national councils, with problems appearing within process of forming the lists, procedure of constitution and work of councils after elections. It can be concluded that the aim of Expert mission was perception of normative-legal frame of the Republic of Serbia, on which national councils of national minorities function, and all of that aiming to adjust legal norms to the laws valid for European Union.



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Balint Pastor: Comprehensive solutions needed

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e want statute to regulate more precisely and accurately the legal status of national councils, i.e. the part concerning autonomy of Vojvodina to be more precise and to give more authority to the province, so that the authority cannot be changed easily by future parliament majority – said for “Mađar so” Balint Pastor, head of ministerial group of Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (SVM) relating to the news that these days is formed sub-board of working group dealing with restructure of Serbian political system, and where its representative has SVM.

Balint Pastor explained that subgroup has four members, and it keeps connections with ministerial groups, out of parliament parties, professional associations, representatives of science and civil organisations. All suggestions that it gets on public hearing this subgroup will present to the action group, which will decide about order of topics that will be found on the table of parliamentary group, working on restructure of Serbian political system.

- There will be more possibility for questions of great important for Hungarian national minority, to be considered more accurately by action group, and that the possibilities are not limited to the fact that we on meetings of action group explain what we want to restate I relation to the political system – said leader of ministerial group of SVM, adding that in the beginning subgroup was thought to have three members, who would be delegated by three most

numerous ministerial groups, but suggestion of SVM enabled the most numerous minority group to participate in the work.

“We think that change of Statute should be started, i.e. change of some of its elements. In all countries Statute is the most important legal act, and all other acts should be accordant to it.”

Balint Pastor

Public hearings will start on 17 Jun, and SVM will present its suggestions on 22 Jun.

– We think that change of Statute should be started, i.e. change of some of its elements.

In all countries Statute is the most important legal act, and all other acts should be accordant to it. Of course, from the perspective of stability frequent change of Statute is not good, but if we take into account the way in which valid Statute is adopted in 2006, that it happened too quickly, that there was no any public or professional discussion before adoption, then there is no wonder that in the text of the Statute there are illogical things, mistakes that must be corrected. Statute should be read in details, from sentence to sentence, and to correct mistakes in the same way. It is inadmissible, for instance, that Statute mixes terms of owner and ownership, or that the same question is treated completely differently by two paragraphs of the Statute – says Pastor.

Head of ministerial group SVM also commented initiative of Serbian Progressive Party according to which number of members of parliament should be decreased from 250 to 150.

- Statute defines number of parliamentary members, and it is 250. If anyone wants to change that, then automatically question of change of Statute is raised. We think that Statute should be changed for many reasons, not only because of the number of its members.

Not to speak about the thing that if this topic is raised, there are many paragraphs of Statute related closely to the question of number of parliament members, so that those paragraphs should also be changed. For instance, rules related to the interpellations, which are one of the techniques of governmental control made by parliament. According to Statute, interpellation can be given by 50 members of the parliament. In case that number of members is decreased, then also must be decreased number needed for giving interpellations. Question of constitutionality of certain laws can be initiated by 30 members, in case of already accepted but still not valid laws, and so in this case too number needed for initiative of constitutionality should be decreased. These changes would

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Balint Pastor

give right for further changes, for instance, decreased should be number of parliamentary members on provincial i.e. municipality level. Though it looks that decrease of members is popular, in a heterogeneous place as Serbia, it would be pretty irresponsible to decrease number of members, in the way that certain social groups, that have representatives in parliament are left without representatives.

- At the moment the most differences are shown in the fact that according to opinions of majority of groups only laws should be changed, and Statute should stay as it is. I am convinced that the process can begin only if the result of changes will be comprehensive solutions that will correct mistakes that authority made in 2006. when it accepted the Statute – said Balint Pastor.



Biography

Bálint Pásztor (Balint Pastor), jurist, member of parliament, president of Ministerial group of Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, was born on 3 January 1979 in Subotica.

Primary and Grammar school he completed in his native town, and graduated at the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, on February 2002. At the same Faculty, on October 2011 he acquired academic title Master, from Constitutional Law scientific field. On November 2011 he enrolled doctoral studies at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade.

From April 2002 he was legal adviser of Subotica Ltd for consulting Pannon Invest Consortium, and from January 2004 to February 2007 he was director of this business organization.

From 19 October 2002 to 30 Jun 2010 he was member of National council of Hungarian national minority. From 6 December 2002 to 11 December 2009 he was president of executive board of NCHNM.

He is member of Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians from 13 September 2000. During elections in 2000 he was member of Center Campaign Staff of Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), delegated by SVM. From May 2007 he is member of Presidency of SVM.

From 14 February 2007 he is member of parliament, president of Ministerial group of minorities, member of Foreign Affairs Committee and Legislative Committee of National Assembly.

From 11 Jun 2008 in second mandate he is member of parliament, president of Ministerial group of minorities, member of Foreign Affairs Committee and Committee on Finance of National Assembly.

From 31 May 2012 in third mandate he is member of parliament, president of independent Ministerial group SVM, which is reformed after more than ten years, member of Committee for Constitutional Affairs and Legislation of National Assembly.

From 16 April 2014 in fourth mandate he is member of parliament, president of Ministerial group SVM, member of Committee for Constitutional Affairs and Legislation of National Assembly, president of Ministerial group of friendship with Spain.

From September 2014 he is teaching assistant for subject Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law for Economy and Legislation of the University of Economic Academy.

He speaks English language. He is married, and is father of a son.

We think that change of Statute should be started, i.e. change of some of its elements.



Centar za istraživanja migracija
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