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PRESENTATION IN PUBLIC MEDIA FOUNDED BY

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Pursuant to Article 32, paragraph 2 of the Public Information Law ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro" No. 4/98) the Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro at its first regular session in 1998, held on March 17, 18 and 19, 1998 passed the:

**RESOLUTION  
ON RULES FOR POLITICAL PARTIES' PRESENTATION  
IN PUBLIC MEDIA FOUNDED BY STATE  
DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

**Article 1**

Election list submitters for the early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Montenegro have the right to inform citizens on their programs and activities in the same daily broadcasts and columns and on equal terms in the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

**Article 2**

The election campaign of each election list submitter in public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro shall commence on the day of its confirmation by a competent Republican authority and it shall terminate 48 hours prior to the election day.

**Article 3**

Each editor or presenter of the political-news programs and special programs or columns in public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro is obliged to independently and objectively present all election list submitters and their candidates throughout the election campaign and to ensure impartiality in relation to all political, social, ethnical/cultural and other agendas present therein.

The editors as referred to in the paragraph 1 of this Article shall establish the presentation schedule for each election list submitter by mutual consent with their authorized representatives, in compliance with the law, the Resolution set out herein and with the editorial criteria governing a public medium concerned.

**Article 4**

Public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro which charge for publicizing the advertisements of election list submitters advertising

*F Clifton White Resource Center*  
**International Foundation for Election Systems**

*dB*

elections, election agendas and candidates are obliged to mark each advertisement by note: "Paid electoral advertisement".

#### Article 5

Broadcasting public media (television and radio) that are founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to organize two separate programs that shall take up maximum 3 hours each and which shall provide that election agendas of the election list submitters and their candidates are publicly confronted in a discussion that ensures a dialog.

#### Article 6

Public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to report equitably about the activities of election list submitters at their conferences and other public gatherings at which their electoral agendas and their candidates are presented.

Election list submitters and public media as referred to in the paragraph 1 herein shall by mutual consent agree on the terms and conditions for reporting from public gatherings, and the deadlines for notifying the public media about the public gathering schedules.

#### Article 7

During the electoral campaign the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to publicize any findings of competent authorities which give statement about any infringement on the principles of equality and objectivity related to informing citizens on agendas and candidates nominated by election list submitters.

#### Article 8

For the period of seven days prior the election day, public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are forbidden to publicize results of either public-opinion polls, research or analyses related to the electorate's disposition regarding election result estimates.

It is forbidden to publicize either previous results or any predictions whatsoever about the election outcome before the polling stations are closed on the election day.

**Article 9**

All participants in the election campaign are obliged to observe the Constitution, the law and professional ethics of the statement made in public and they also pledge themselves to act fairly and thus excluding any insults, slander, offence and belittling of a personality as well as any other abuse of a citizen's dignity.

**Article 10**

In their regular reporting on current issues and the activities of government authorities and state officials, the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are not allowed to give comments or publish articles which imply their party affiliation or act as the advertisement for a party.

The reporting on the activities of state officials performing their regular official engagements shall not be used for a party's election campaign.

**Article 11**

Contact programs or special programs featuring state officials or using their engagements for the purpose of election campaign shall not be produced prior to the termination of the election.

In case of some outstanding or emergency events or circumstances or of intergovernmental visits, these events and the activities of government authorities shall be reported on with the full observance of the principles of objectivity and impartiality and fulfillment of the condition that full and true information are given about these events.

**Article 12**

The call-in programs and panel discussion programs which have characteristics of political promotion, as well as the special programs of the same character taken from other radio and television broadcasting centers shall be removed from the First, Second and Third Channel of the Montenegrin Television Network and from the First and Second Station of the Montenegrin Radio Broadcasting Network.

**Article 13**

The public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to observe the principles of professionalism and journalist ethics and abstain from inviting/hosting leaders or popular members of the parties to their regular and thematic programs.

#### Article 14

News broadcasts and reporting articles of the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro about the sessions of the Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to fully respect the principle of professionalism and journalist ethics and also to ensure equal treatment of the representatives/participants in discussions at the Assembly's sessions.

The reporting shall have the character of informing and it shall focus on laws, resolutions, conclusions and official stands passed in the Assembly.

#### Article 15

Election list submitters shall carry out their political activities in information programs of the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro through their authorized representatives with the observance of the following rules:

##### 1. STATEMENT

- a) Each statement shall be signed by the person authorized by an election list submitter.

Each election list submitter is entitled to authorize maximum three representatives for signing statements on its behalf.

- b) The names of authorized representatives of election list submitters shall be forwarded to editors-in-chief of all public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.
- c) Statements shall have maximum 25 lines, each line containing 70 characters.

The statements whose length exceeds the norm set out herein shall not be publicized.

- d) Statements which reach the public media's editorial offices

by 14.00 hours, shall be publicized

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Television Network in the time slot following the news program "Dnevnik I" at 19.30.

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Radio Network in the time slot which follows the news program "Novosti Dana" at 15.30.
- In the first subsequent issue of the "Pobjeda" daily.

after 14.00 hours, shall be publicized:

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Television Network in the time slot following the news program "Dnevnik I" at 19.30 - the next day.
  - In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Radio Network in the time slot following the news program "Novosti Dana" at 19.00
  - In the second subsequent issue of the "Pobjeda" daily.
- e) Statements shall be publicized integrally i.e. without any kind of editorial intervention and they can be documented by a photography/teletext by agreement with an authorized representative of an election list submitter.
- f) In case that an editor-in-chief of a public information medium founded by the Republic of Montenegro fails to publicize a statement on the grounds of his judgement that it does not comply with the Public Information Law, he is obliged to immediately inform the authorized representative of an election list submitter and a medium's Editorial Board about the reasons for not making the statement public.
- g) Editorial Board of a public medium decides about taking its position regarding the information of an election list submitter that was not made public and, thereafter, by means of public media it informs the public as to the position taken.

## 2. PRESS CONFERENCE

- a) Each press conference has to be announced at least 24 hours prior to its scheduled commencement.
- b) The venue of each press conference shall be the PRESS CENTER of the Public Enterprise "Montenegrin Radio and Television Network".
- c) Press conferences shall not last longer than 20 minutes.
- d) The length of coverage/reporting from a press conference in news programs of the Montenegrin Television Network and Montenegrin Radio Network shall not exceed three minutes and it shall be dominated by a sound recording, while in the "Pobjeda" daily it shall not exceed 50 lines.

Reports from press conferences shall be prepared by arrangement made with an authorized representative of an election list submitter.

- e) By exception and subject to a written request of the organizer of a press conference, the report can last shorter than three minutes.
- f) The timetable for publicizing the reports from press conferences shall be governed by the same terms and conditions as stipulated for statements.

Each submitter of the election list is entitled to either one statement or one press conference a day at his own choice.

### 3. ELECTION RALLIES IN NEWS PROGRAMS

- a) Public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to give worded reports about all election rallies of election list submitters.
- b) Election rallies shall be announced in public media three days prior to their scheduled date at the latest.
- c) The length of reporting from election campaigns in news programs of the Montenegrin Radio Network and Montenegrin Television Network shall not exceed three minutes, while it shall not exceed 45 lines in the "Pobjeda" daily.
- d) The Montenegrin Television Network and the Montenegrin Radio Network are obliged to provide 5 footage and/or sound recordings respectively with excerpts from speeches of participants in the election rallies of election list submitters and this shall be increased for one footage and/or sound recordings each on every fourth election rally held.
- e) In case that the rallies' schedules coincide, the sequence list of the election rallies to be filmed and sound recorded shall be made by an editor-in-chief of a public medium, with the due consideration for technical capacities of the Montenegrin Radio Network and Montenegrin Television Network.
- f) The "Pobjeda" daily is obliged to publish four reports documented by photographs from election rallies of election list submitters and this shall be increased on every fifth election rally held.
- g) The "Pobjeda" daily is obliged to document by photographs three election rallies of each election list submitter subject to the selection by an authorized representative and to publish them upon the agreement made with him.
- h) Publicizing time for reporting from election rallies:  
For rallies terminated by 14.00 hours

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Television Network in the time slot following the news program "Dnevnik I" at 19.30.
- In the first subsequent issue of the "Pobjeda" daily.

For election rallies terminated after 14.00

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Television Network in the time slot following the news program "Dnevnik I" at 19.30 - the next day.
- In the second subsequent issue of the "Pobjeda" daily.

For election rallies terminated by 12.00

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Radio Network in the time slot following the news program "Novosti Dana" at 15.30

For election rallies terminated after 12.00

- In a special program broadcast by the Montenegrin Radio Network after the news program "Novosti Dana" at 15.30.

#### 4. SPECIAL PROGRAMS/BROADCASTS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

Special programs about parliamentary elections shall be broadcast in the time slot following "Novosti Dana" at 15.30 on the Montenegrin Radio Network and in the time slot following "Dnevnik" at 19.30 on the Montenegrin Television network.

Special programs shall be structured as to broadcast the coverage from election rallies first, then followed by reports from press conferences and the statements broadcasting shall come in the end.

The broadcasting sequence of reports from election rallies and press conferences shall be made according to the sequential order of rallies' or conferences' schedules.

The broadcasting sequence of statements shall be made according to the sequential order of their receipt by the editorial offices of the Montenegrin Radio Network and the Montenegrin Television Network.



By exception, the sequence of election rallies' broadcasts can be changed due to technical problems that make their production unfeasible (remoteness of a rally's venue, editing lags etc.)

#### Article 16

The Montenegrin Television Network and the Montenegrin Radio Network are obliged to present in their special news programs three election rallies selected by each election list submitter from their five election rallies that are stipulated to be reported on by footage and/or sound recording. This shall proceed as follows:

##### a) Montenegrin Television Network

- Duration: 30 minutes
- Broadcasting time slot: from 17.00 to 18.00
- Application deadline: 7 days prior to the rally's scheduled date at latest

##### b) Montenegrin Radio Network

- Duration: 15 minutes
- Broadcasting time slot: from 12.00 to 13.00
- Application deadline: 7 days prior to the rally's scheduled date at latest

##### c) Newspaper "Pobjeda"

- three election rallies as selected by an election list submitter shall be reported on in four columns with a photography which shall be selected by arrangement with the rally organizer.
- Application deadline: 7 days prior to the rally's scheduled date at latest

### PRESENTATION OF ELECTORAL AGENDAS

#### Article 17

Public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro are obliged to ensure presentation of electoral agendas and candidates nominated by election list submitters.

The presentation of an electoral agenda shall be organized by an election list submitter.

The timetable, duration and number of participants in the presentation of electoral agendas shall be defined after the competent Republican authority determines the general electoral list. This shall be arranged upon joint agreement made between election list submitters and editors-in-chief of the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

#### Article 18

Presentation sequence in public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro shall be determined by drawing lots that shall be carried out for each medium respectively.

Drawing of the lots shall be done on the day, and at latest the day after the competent Republican authority determines the general electoral list. The lots shall be drawn in the Press Center of the Republican Secretariat for Information and organized by public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

The drawing of lots shall be attended by authorized representatives of confirmed election list submitters, editors-in-chief and representatives of Editorial Boards of public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

#### Article 19

The presentation of election list submitters shall commence one day after the date when the lots are drawn for establishing the sequence of presentation in public media.

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RALLIES

#### Article 20

The announcements of election rallies of election list submitters in public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro shall be free of any charge and organized in the following manner:

- a) Montenegrin Television Network

- two announcements for each election rally, in the time slots prior and after news program "Dnevnik" at 19.30.

b) Montenegrin Radio Network

- two announcements for each election rally, in the time slots prior to and after news program "Novosti Dana" at 15.30.

c) Newspaper "Pobjeda"

- in a special column titled "Pre-Election Announcements" of an issue as required by a written communication from election list submitter. The announcement shall be edited in compliance with the professional journalist rules.

The announcements of election rallies in the public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro as set out hereinbefore shall be forwarded in written form and not later than 10.00 o'clock on the day preceding its broadcast/publishing and shall bear the note: "FREE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RALLY".

Article 21

Other announcements of election rallies publicized by teletexts shall be arranged in the direct communication between authorized representatives of election list submitters and public media in conformity with both technical and editorial capacities and by market conditions.

## COMMERCIALS

Article 22

Commercials of confirmed submitters of election lists shall be broadcast in maximum total running time of 5 minutes, two minutes of which shall be gratis, one minute of which shall be broadcast in the time slot preceding news program "Dnevnik" at 19.00 and the other in the slot following the program. The remaining three minutes of a commercial's total running time shall be broadcast by market conditions and upon the arrangement made between an authorized representative of an election list submitter and the Montenegrin Television Network.

Article 23

The enforcement of this resolution shall be controlled by editorial boards of public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

**Article 24**

Election list submitters and their candidates have the right to present their electoral agenda in their own languages in public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro.

**Article 25**

Editors-in-chief of public media founded by the Republic of Montenegro shall not be considered liable for an information that a medium publicized in compliance with this Resolution and that was independently prepared by an election list submitter.

**Article 26**

The Rules on Number and Duration of Broadcasts, Terms of Equal Presentation of Election List Submitters and the Presenting and Commenting of the Electoral Agendas ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro" No. 24/96) shall become inoperative on the day of coming into force of this Resolution.

**Article 27**

This Resolution comes into force one day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro.

No. 02-542/2

In Podgorica, on March 19 1998

THE ASSEMBLY  
OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF MONTENEGRO

Chairman: Svetoazir Marovic