

Народна скупштина Републике Србије
National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia



European Movement
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

CO-OPERATION OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS AND INDEPENDENT BODIES IN SEE

(House of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, April 3-4, 2012)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

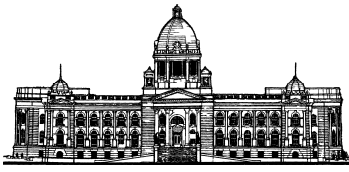
Stressing the importance of the establishment and operation of all Independent bodies (IBs), particularly those dealing with protection of human rights, rights of minorities and antidiscrimination and prevention of corruption in the South-Eastern Europe countries, we highlight necessity for continuous improvement of cooperation among all levels of governance, IBs and CSOs in order to improve areas of living and give citizens of the region the possibility to benefit from their work and results.

Stressing the importance of good governance, mutual information and communication, efficiency and accountability, participants concluded accordingly:

1. Correlation and mutual influence between the Parliaments and Independent Bodies

a. Establishment and operation of IRBs should include a wide process of consultations with all relevant stakeholders (state authorities, civil society organizations, media, academic community representatives and experts) and thus enable legal framework which will secure functioning, independence and accountability of IBs.

b. Election procedure of IBs should be impartial, independent highly efficient in operation and accountable to the Parliament. Legal framework establishing IBs should include clear definition of the selection procedure for IBs representatives which will enable transparent selection, appointment and dismissal processes.



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c. IBs should be empowered with appropriate competencies, various sources of information and particularly with financial resources in order to perform the functions assigned by the law.

d. IBs should provide parliament with necessary information, reports, recommendation and conclusions, and vice versa.

2. IBs involvement in the legislative processes and their initiatives toward the parliament

a. Parliaments should promptly inform IBs when drafting legislation in the area of their competence and involve IBs in the public hearings about legislation in the area of their competence.

b. Parliaments should define and implement clear procedures for both legislative and executive branch to include IBs in all phases of legislation drafting which is a precondition for legal solutions which correspond to the actual situation on the ground and a guarantee for their acceptance.

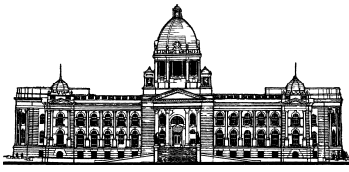
3. Horizontal cooperation in regard to accountability

a. It is necessary to increase the level of understanding of the representatives of the public authorities, media, CSOs and thus among citizens about the role and importance of IBs.

b. Parliaments and IBs should work together to encourage the development of the culture of independence and accountability.

c. Parliaments and IBs should jointly work on defining and establishing adequate mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of IBs recommendations with clear division of responsibilities as well as to include CSOs and Media in the monitoring process.

d. Parliaments should organize public hearings regarding amendments or/and legislation proposals of IBs including representatives of all relevant stakeholders in the process, thus enabling pressure for their acceptance, or their modification in order to make them acceptable and optimal for the involved parties.



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4. Annual reports of IBs and their effects

- a. Parliaments should standardize and institutionalize mechanisms, for adopting the recommendations issued in the Annual reports of IB's and to produce clear guidelines for their implementation.**
- b. Parliaments should promote the annual reports of IBs as additional instrument for executing parliaments' competence in oversight the work of the Governments.**
- c. Parliaments should support IBs in their effort to strengthen their capacities and procedures related to the report preparation in order to improve quality of reports' findings.**

5. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) perspective: involvement, inclusion and influence

- a. CSOs should be included in all legislative processes related to the area of competence of IBs and participate in all phases of their adoption**
- b. Parliaments and IBs should establish institutionalized continued communication and consultations with CSOs related to the issues of their competence and thus allow CSOs to contribute to their efficiency.**
- c. CSOs should develop mechanisms for monitoring the work of IBs**

Considering the importance of the establishment of IBs and taking into account the variety of modalities of their functioning, the exchange of experiences and good practices of the Parliaments, IBs and CSOs of the SEECP countries should become a continued process which will contribute to the development of democracy and good governance in the whole region.