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Parliament elects two new AMA members

The Parliament elected today in a plenary session two new members of the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA.) The new members are Pirro Misha, head of Institute for Dialogue and Communication and well-known publicist, and Gledis Gjipali, head of the European Movement Albania. The new members were voted only by Members of Parliament from the ruling majority, as the opposition MPs are not back in the parliament yet. Meanwhile, after the election of the new members, the Parliamentary Media Commission can proceed with the proposal of four candidates for chair of AMA, out of the seven that have applied for this position.

This Parliament voting of the two new members was quickly condemned by the opposition. Genc Pollo, Head of Parliamentary Commission on Media, issued a statement that considered this act illegal and unfair. According to Pollo, the process was illegal, as the law demands that the short listing of candidates is done jointly by both ruling majority and opposition MPs. He also added that the ruling majority has in this way also violated the agreement with the opposition, which detailed the procedures for electing members of AMA and of Steering Council of RTSH. The opposition has maintained that the intention of the ruling majority in this process has been that of capturing AMA and especially the chair of the institution.

The voting today in the parliament took place after a week of work of the Parliamentary Commission on Media proceeded with the shortlisting of candidates. The process started after the renewed appeal to the opposition to come to the parliament and resolve the deadlock was promptly rejected by the opposition. After this rejection, as warned, the ruling majority proceeded with the selection of two names to be proposed for two of the three missing members of AMA. The third member will be proposed by the opposition MPs when they return to the parliament, out of the 12 applicants that have not been disqualified by the ruling majority MPs.

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