



*April 10, 2014*

## Parliament discussions on election of KDRTSH and AMA continue

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On April 8, the Parliamentary Commission of Media finally made a decision on the procedures for electing the new members of the Steering Council of RTSH (KDRTSH.) This agreement came after weeks of disagreements and lengthy discussions in the commission. The discussions focused on matters related to procedure rather than on concrete actions to be taken. As a result, both the decisions on the annual reports of the regulator and public broadcaster, and the steps in electing new members of KDRTSH and regulator AMA have been delayed. The opposition MPs accused the ruling majority that its actions betrayed its intent to politically control the regulator. On the other hand, the ruling majority claimed that the actions of the opposition MPs in the commission clearly showed that their intention was to delay the process of electing missing members, hindering the whole work of the regulator and public broadcaster.

The Commission agreed to elect the new members of KDRTSH in the following way: out of the 57 applicants both the opposition and the ruling majority will each shortlist 20 candidates. The opposition then would shortlist five candidates from the ruling majority's list and then the other way around, until the final ten members are elected. This was the proposal of the ruling majority, while the opposition had proposed to shortlist from a list of ten members rather than 20. The ruling majority had refused this proposal, claiming that the law envisages that there must be four candidates for one member. The election is expected to take place next week. On April 8 the Commission also interviewed the new candidates for chairman of KDRTSH.

The Commission also appointed the rapporteurs on the matter of existing vacancies in the regulator, AMA. This matter has held up the proceedings of the commission for a long time. The ruling majority retracted its proposed amendment that aimed to elect new members of the regulator. However, the ruling majority based on a memo of the Service of Monitoring of Independent Institutions, claims that there are four vacancies in AMA, including the chair, whose mandate has finished. The same body issued a different opinion on the same matter in July 2013, stating that AMA has three vacancies, instead of

four. Hence, the opposition MPs claimed that the new report is politically motivated and is considering pressing charges against the Service of Monitoring of Independent Institutions.

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