



February 14, 2014

Report on parliamentary process of AMA amendment and KDRTSH election

On February 14, the Parliamentary Commission of Laws held a meeting to analyze the amendment proposed by Deputy Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Media Alfred Peza (Socialist Party.) The amendment aims to start electing new members of the Audiovisual Media Authority (AMA.) The Commission reviewed the amendment in order to see if it is compatible with the constitution and other relevant laws. The opinion of MPs from the ruling majority was that there are no legal and constitutional obstacles to approving this amendment. Considering that there are three vacancies in AMA and the chairwoman has not been voted as a member since 2012, they said it is a good moment for introducing this amendment. They recommended that the Parliamentary Commission on Media, after receiving expertise from OSCE, approve the amendment and take it to the plenary session for voting. By contrast, the MPs of the opposition suggested that the Commission of Laws should wait for the expertise and then give a recommendation on the matter, stating that the independent institutions were being affected by this amendment and procedure. Next week experts from OSCE will visit the parliament on this matter, while expertise has also been requested from Council of Europe.

On February 10, the Parliamentary Commission on Media convened to discuss the proceedings for electing the members of the Steering Council of public Radio Televizioni Shqiptar (KDRTSH.) In December the commission interviewed 65 candidates for 10 vacancies, as well as four candidates for the post of chairman of KDRTSH. However, Ylli Pata, one of the four candidates withdrew his candidacy. Apart from this, the major problem in this meeting was that the opposition and the ruling majority could not agree on a way of shortlisting and electing the ten members of KDRTSH. The representative of the ruling majority said that they proposed to shortlist the candidates, according to professional criteria, one by one, until five candidates that are supported by the opposition and five candidates supported from the ruling majority remain. The opposition's suggestion was for both opposition MPs and ruling majority ones to shortlist

the candidates they thought were more suitable separately and then elect the ten final members from this pool. The ruling majority said this was against the procedures and favored political candidates, rather than professional one. As a result, there was no consensus and the discussions will continue next week.

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