

May 8, 2015

Parliament elects chairman of the Steering Council of PBS

The parliament elected the new chairman of the Steering Council of public broadcaster RTSH during the plenary session of May 7. His name is Kristaq Traja. He is a well-known lawyer, who has also served a 10 year-mandate as a Judge at the ECHR. He received the majority of votes, 74 of them, and only one against, while another one abstained. The other three candidates proposed were: Artan Mullai, writer and columnist at Gazeta Shqip, Blerim Kola, director of information at Adrianet TV, and Andi Kananaj, director of the Agency for Support of Civil Society. Each of them received a minimum of votes, ranging from 2 to 4 MPs voting in their favour.

Although the application process of the candidates for chair of the Steering Council took place in late autumn 2014, the parliament was able to elect the new chair almost six months later. The process was delayed due to the political deadlock and disagreements between the ruling majority and the opposition. The election of the new chair of the Steering Council came after the completion of the Steering Council with all ten members the previous week, on April 30. The first five members of the Steering Council were elected on December 4, 2014, only with ruling majority votes, as the opposition MPs were boycotting all parliamentary activities. After the election of the first five members, the Democratic Party submitted a request to file a lawsuit to the first level of Administrative Court on January 12, 2015. The Democratic Party lost the lawsuit in the first instance and decided to not pursue it further.

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