



CENTRE FOR LAW AND DEMOCRACY

To the attention of:

1. Ministry of Justice of Montenegro

Mr. Dusko Markovic, Minister
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2. Ministry of Finance of Montenegro

Mr. Radoje Zugic, Minister
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C.C.: Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector - MANS

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**CALL ON THE MONTENEGRIN AUTHORITIES TO KEEP
COMPANY REGISTER AND STATE CADASTRE REGISTRIES TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE**

Respected ministers Markovic and Zugic,

We have been informed that the Montenegrin authorities reduced the amount of data published in the Company Register and State Cadastre Register, which is undermining its transparency and accountability but also efforts of the civil society organizations and media to investigate cases of corruption and organized crime.

There is no need to remind you that European Union Member States, but also other democratic countries around the globe, are rather supportive towards publication of the sufficient amount of data in their registries, to ensure those databases transparency and credibility. Not in a single case so far, there were any problems with the violation of the right to privacy.

Therefore, we would kindly like to urge you to ensure openness, transparency and accountability of the above mentioned registries, but also other similar registers facing with the same problems if it exist, and withdraw previous decisions to reduce amount of data publically available in the registers.

By doing so, you will confirm Montenegrin commitment to the EU standards and best practices, including those related to transparency and accountability of public registries, especially having in mind

that key Montenegrin priorities from the EU Accession Negotiations are fight against corruption and organized crime, but also greater transparency of public institutions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Karanicolas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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